

(The President)

It is most unfortunate that we have been victim of the most vicious and barbaric forms of weapons, i.e. chemical weapons. We have seen the extent of genocide by Iraqi forces not only against Iranian military and civilian targets but also against the Kurdish population of Iraq as well. More unfortunate than the crime is the inability of the international community to move against those who are committing these crimes. As my President in his message to the Conference has mentioned, we hope that shortcomings in international regulations governing the use of chemical weapons, genocide and all crimes against humanity and peace will be worked out so as to contribute to our resolve to finalize the convention concerning a ban on the production, storage, transport, transfer and use of chemical weapons.

I hope our shortcomings will not lead us to face other grim realities in the same way as in the case of the use of chemical weapons, where even the recognition and condemnation of the crime, let alone its punishment, is hostage to short-sighted and self-serving petty economic and political concerns. This inaction remained even after special technical teams dispatched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations verified the extensive and frequent use of chemical weapons. To prevent a repetition of such horrors, the Conference as the sole international body responsible for multilateral negotiations on disarmament should be empowered to finalize expeditiously a comprehensive convention. A world free from threats of nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological weapons, and the threat of war in general. May future generations remember us as those who chose and achieved real progress in this area over and above exchanges of diplomatic niceties! Insha-Allah (God willing).

(The President)

As agreed by the Conference today in adopting the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons contained in document CD/874, and in accordance with paragraph 11 (d) of that report, the Ad hoc Committee will hold a session of limited duration during the period 17 January to 3 February 1989 and, in preparation for the resumed session, open-ended consultations of the Ad hoc Committee will be held between 29 November and 15 December 1988.

This plenary meeting stands adjourned and the 1988 session of the Conference on Disarmament is closed.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

